

St. Petersburg, Florida, June 1, 2016

The first public hearing on the proposed Charter amendment referendums of the Pinellas County Charter Review Commission (CRC) (as created by Chapter 80-590, Laws of Florida) was held at the City Hall in St. Petersburg, Florida, on this date with the following members in attendance:

James Olliver, Chairman
Thomas Steck, Vice-Chairman
Larry Ahern, State Representative
Ken Burke, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
Janet C. Long, County Commissioner
Johnny Bardine
Keisha Bell
Ashley Caron
Barclay Harless
Todd Pressman
James Sewell
Joshua Shulman

Not Present

Sandra L. Bradbury, City of Pinellas Park Mayor

Also Present

Wade Vose, Vose Law Firm, General Counsel
Diane Meiller-Cook, Diane Meiller & Associates, Inc. (DM&A), Facilitator
Flo Sena, DM&A
Mary Scott Hardwick, Pinellas County Intergovernmental Liaison
Other Interested Individuals
Christopher Bartlett, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk
(Minutes by Helen Groves)

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes – May 18, 2016 Meeting
3. Charter Review Commission Overview
4. Referendums
5. Public Input

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6. Open Discussion
7. Closing Remarks
8. Adjournment

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Olliver called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and welcomed those in attendance. He announced that this is a regular meeting of the Charter Review Commission as well as the first of the two required public hearings; whereupon, he reviewed today's agenda.

MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2016 MEETING – APPROVED

Upon presentation by Chairman Olliver, Mr. Sewell moved, seconded by Mr. Shulman and carried unanimously, that the minutes of the meeting of May 18, 2016 be approved.

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION OVERVIEW

Ms. Meiller-Cook referred to a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, and reviewed the Pinellas County Charter process, noting that the Charter provides a way for the local government to have more home rule. She related that the Commission consists of 13 members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC): four elected officials and nine citizens; whereupon, she discussed the process used to select the Charter amendment referendums.

REFERENDUMS

Attorney Vose read the ballot title and summary for the following six Charter amendment referendums:

#1 LOWERING SIGNATURE PERCENTAGE AND EXPANDING TIME PERIOD FOR PETITION DRIVE TO PROPOSE COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to lower the number of signed petitions necessary to propose an amendment to the Pinellas County Charter from ten (10) percent of

the registered voters in the county to eight (8) percent, and to expand the length of time during which petitions can be gathered from 180 days to 240 days?

Freddy Ferro, St. Petersburg, appeared in response to the Chairman's call for citizens wishing to be heard, and in response to his queries, Attorney Vose explained that the Charter sets the date at which the number of registered voters is assessed and locks in the time; and that the amendment only changes the percentage against which it would be referenced.

#2 FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to provide that for each proposed Charter amendment placed on the ballot, a brief financial impact statement prepared by the County Auditor shall be placed after the ballot summary for the amendment, estimating the increase or decrease in revenues or costs to the County resulting from approval of the proposed Charter amendment?

No one appeared in response to the Chairman's call for citizens wishing to be heard.

#3 CREATION OF COUNTY REDISTRICTING BOARD

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to create a County Redistricting Board, appointed by the County Commission every ten years after the Census, to provide advisory recommendations to the County Commission on redrawing County Commission districts, and providing parameters for such recommendations, including not favoring political parties or incumbents, not denying racial or language minorities equal opportunity for political participation, and, where feasible, consideration of unincorporated areas and municipal boundaries?

No one appeared in response to the Chairman's call for citizens wishing to be heard.

#4 SELECTION, TERMINATION, AND ANNUAL REVIEW OF COUNTY ATTORNEY BY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to provide that the County Attorney shall be selected by, serve at the pleasure of, and be subject to annual review by, a committee consisting of the seven County Commissioners and the five County Constitutional Officers (Sheriff, Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections, Clerk of the Circuit Court) rather than the Board of County Commissioners alone?

No one appeared in response to the Chairman's call for citizens wishing to be heard.

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#5 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MEMBERS RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to specify that each of the seven County Commissioners shall nominate to the Charter Review Commission a member who resides in the Commissioner's district?

No one appeared in response to the Chairman's call for citizens wishing to be heard.

#6 PINELLAS CHARTER CLEANUP AMENDMENT

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to remove certain provisions found unconstitutional by court ruling, remove certain transitional provisions that have since occurred, revise certain references to be consistent with Florida Statutes, and remove references to certain organizations that no longer exist?

No one appeared in response to the Chairman's call for citizens wishing to be heard.

In response to queries by Messrs. Steck and Burke, Attorney Vose indicated that a scrivener's error in Item #6 would be corrected and the correct title, "Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller," would be used in Item #4; whereupon, Chairman Olliver directed that the language be changed, and no objections were noted.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Harless thanked the DM&A staff, Attorney Vose, and Ms. Hardwick for their assistance, and Mr. Pressman commended Chairman Olliver for his leadership.

CLOSING REMARKS

Chairman Olliver announced that the second public hearing would be held June 15 in the County Commission Assembly Room at the County Courthouse in Clearwater, and the same agenda and approach would be used. He related that at the end of the meeting, the members would vote on the Final Report; that a majority-plus-one vote is required; and that he is anticipating a unanimous vote.

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ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Mr. Sewell, seconded by Mr. Steck and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 P.M.